Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Tuesday 31 Jan 2023 until 23:59 on Wednesday 01 Feb 2023

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 31 Jan 2023 at 02:48

Confidence: High for a cold, bright and showery day on Tuesday and for a change to milder, cloudier conditions from Wednesday, but lower for details regarding southward progress of slightly colder conditions on Friday.

Headline for Tuesday 31 Jan 2023: Sunny spells and snow showers. Very cold with westerly gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Tuesday 31 Jan 2023

Blizzards Low Likelihood	**Heavy persistent snow** Low Likelihood	**Storm force winds** No Likelihood
Gales High Likelihood	**Severe chill effect** High Likelihood	**Poor visibility** Low Likelihood
Thunderstorms No Likelihood	**Heavy persistent rain** No Likelihood	**Strong sunlight** No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Sunny intervals	Sunny intervals	Sleet showers	Sleet showers (night)	Heavy snow showers (night)
Precipitation probability					
30%	20%	20%	40%	40%	60%

Forecast for Tuesday 31 Jan 2023

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of rain at first, clearing southeastwards later with clear spells developing. Then a bright day with a mix of sunny spells and blustery snow showers, these falling increasingly as rain below about 450m. The showers may be occasionally heavy and, during the evening become a little more frequent for a time, with the risk of temporary blizzard conditions on, or near, summits.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 60% in west, 75% in east, but chances fall in evening

Low cloud and visibility: Occasional, but periods at times in west and more generally in evening, above about 450-600m. Away from cloud visibility very good falling to several kilometres in overnight rain and a kilometre or less at times in snow showers and near zero in temporary blizzard conditions.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Tuesday 31 Jan 2023

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	45/52 W	41/49 W	38/49 W	36/46 W	38/48 W	41/53 W	41/53 W
600	35/44 W	32/42 W	32/43 W	29/40 W	30/42 W	34/48 W	34/47 W
300	10/33 W	11/34 W	12/36 W	12/34 W	12/35 W	15/40 W	14/39 W
Valley	8/29 W	10/29 W	13/33 W	13/31 W	13/33 W	15/36 W	14/34 W

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	1/-9	-1/-10	-1/-11	-2/-10	-1/-10	-1/-11	-1/-11
600	3/-4	2/-6	1/-6	1/-6	1/-6	1/-7	1/-7
300	5/2	4/1	4/0	4/-0	4/-0	4/-1	4/-1
Valley	7/5	6/3	6/3	6/3	6/2	6/2	6/2
Freezing Level*	800m	800m	600m	600m	700m	700m	700m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts around 65mph expected over ridges and summits, especially through the evening. Increasing chill effect.

Forecast for Wednesday 01 Feb 2023

Weather: Snow showers giving way, through the early hours, to a more prolonged spell of rain and sleet, with snow for a time above about 750m. Then a cloudy day with outbreaks of rain, with a little sleet or wet snow on the higher summits, heaviest and most persistent over western fells.

Maximum wind: Westerly 35-45mph, gusts around 65mph over ridges and summits, easing 25-30mph, gusts around 50mph, by early afternoon

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Little chance over western fells but nearer 25% over eastern fells.

Low cloud and visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 450-600m, with patches below in west, but cloud more occasional above 750m at times in east. Away from cloud visibility good falling to several kilometres in rain and a kilometre or less in summit snow.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 5 Celsius at dawn rising to plus 8 Celsius by day.
At 800m: Around minus 1 Celsius rising to plus 3 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 700m rising above the summits

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.

Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Monday 30 January. Location: Helvellyn summit at 14:30. Temperature: minus 0.1 deg C. Maximum wind speed 31.2mph. Wind chill: minus 9.5 deg C. Average wind speed: 25.6mph.

Full report:

There was an overnight sprinkling of new snow above 900m on the Lake District fells but generally a slow thaw continued with patchy old snow above 750m on SE through NE aspects. Summit temperatures were hovering around freezing.

Where the snow has been compacted beneath walkers feet on paths and the Helvellyn Edges it is now hard and icy. This is particularly relevant on Swirral Edge where there is a large and unavoidable patch of steep and icy snow on the exit slopes. Even though this is only a short section crampons and ice axe are currently essential to ascend or descend Swirral Edge. There is a significant potential for a long and tumbling slide through boulders if a simple slip or trip is not quickly arrested.

Away from popular paths and at lower elevations the snow is wet, soft and sugary. However the forecasted drop in temperatures will quickly refreeze the old snowpack producing firm and icy neve. Fresh snow is also forecast to settle down to 500m

The cornices (snow overhangs) above the east face of Helvellyn were well frozen and 2-3 meters across but there was plenty of evidence of cracking and slumping so please continue to give them a wide berth. They will continue to grow and become more unstable on Tuesday with snow showers driven in on a westerly wind.

Conditions on Tuesday are forecast to be extremely challenging with gale force winds, significant wind chill, spindrift and fresh windslab developing on an old icy snowpack. Full winter clothing and equipment including ice axe and crampons and the necessary experience to use them will be essential for anyone venturing above the snow line (500m). Goggles will also be indispensable for navigation and general 'enjoyment!'.

This is an automated email. If you need a response please email felltop.assessors@lakedistrict.gov.uk

Issued at: 02:48 on Tue 31 Jan 2023

© Crown Copyright 2023. All Rights Reserved.